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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 as shown.

Please cancel Claims 2, 20-28 and 30.

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of storing and accessing a copy of digital content located on a physical medium in possession of a user on a server for subsequent access thereon by the user, said method comprising the steps of:

 a. establishing a communication link with the server;

 b. providing to the server over the communication link a request to store a copy of the digital content on the server;

 c. providing to the server over the communication link a user ID;

 d. uploading the digital content from the physical medium to the server over the communication link;

 e. subsequent to the step of uploading the digital content, providing a request to the server to receive the digital content from the server;

 f. subsequent to or simultaneous with the step of providing the request to receive the digital content, providing to the server the user ID; ~~and~~

 g. receiving the digital content from the server only after performing step (f)<u>; and</u>

 <u>h. compressing the digital content prior to performing the step of uploading the digital content.</u>

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital content is received by a rendering device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said rendering device is a portable digital content player.

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5. (Original)   The method of claim 3 wherein said rendering device is an audio player.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 3 wherein said rendering device is an audio/visual player.

7. (Original)   The method of claim 3 wherein said rendering device is a printing apparatus.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the communication link is established over a computer network.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

10. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the digital content is received by the rendering device over a wireless transmission link.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital content includes audio content.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the digital content includes video content.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user ID provided in step (c) is provided from an IC chip.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user ID provided in step (f) is provided from an IC chip.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein said IC chip is a non-contact IC card.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said IC chip is a non-contact IC card.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user ID comprises biometric data.

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18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving digital content comprises the step of receiving only a segment of the digital content and further comprising the step of providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of receiving digital content comprises the step of receiving only a segment of the digital content and further comprising the step of providing to the server the user ID in order to receive a subsequent segment of the digital content.

20-28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Original)   A method of storing and downloading a compressed copy of digital content to a subscriber in possession of a physical medium on which an uncompressed copy of the digital content is located, said method comprising the steps of:

a.   receiving a request to store a copy of digital content from the subscriber over a communication link;

b.   receiving over the communication link a subscriber ID;

c.   receiving over the communication link a compressed copy of the digital content from the physical medium in the possession of the subscriber;

d.   subsequent to the step of receiving the compressed copy of the digital content, receiving a request to download the digital content to the subscriber;

e.   subsequent to or simultaneous with the step of receiving the request to receive the digital content, receiving the subscriber ID; and

f.   providing the compressed copy of the digital content to the subscriber over the communication link.

30. (Canceled)

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